

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 PA-02 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 IO-14 NEA-10 /073 W
-----069926 102134Z /66

R 101225Z APR 78
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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN
USDOCOSOUTH
USCINCEUR
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST
USINFO WASHDC

UNCLAS ANKARA 2729

USINFO FOR IOP/M, IPS/PE, IBS/PN, IEU

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR, TU, US
SUBJ: TURKISH NEWSPAPERS REPORT INTERVIEWS WITH CONGRESSMAN
ZABLOCKI

1. TWO MAJOR TURKISH DAILIES APRIL 10, MASS CIRCULATION
HURRIYET AND CONSERVATIVE, OPPOSITION TERCUMAN, CARRIED
FRONT-PAGE REPORTS OF INTERVIEWS GIVEN TO THEIR WASHINGTON
CORRESPONDENTS BY HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN ZABLOCKI. BOTH STORIES ARE ACCOMPANIED BY
PHOTOGRAPHS OF ZABLOCKI WITH THE TURKISH JOURNALISTS.
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2. HURRIYET'S REPORT IS DOUBLY HEADLINED, "THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
COMMITTEE THAT IS DISCUSSING THE EMBARGO IS ON THE SIDE OF
TURKEY" AND, "CHAIRMAN ZABLOCKI SAYS 'I AM DOING EVERYTHING
I CAN'". THE TEXT OF THE ARTICLE IS QUITE BRIEF AND QUOTES
ZABLOCKI AS SAYING THAT HE AND HIS FRIENDS ARE MAKING EVERY
EFFORT TO LIFT THE EMBARGO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT IT WILL BE

VERY DIFFICULT TO DO SO BEFORE JUNE. ZABLOCKI ALSO REPORTEDLY TOLD HURRIYET'S REPORTER, DOGAN ULUC, THAT THE EMBARGO IS LIKE A GANGRENOUS WOUND WHICH SHOULD BE HEALED NOW BEFORE IT CAUSES IRREPARABLE DAMAGE TO THE US, TO TURKEY, AND TO WESTERN DEFENSE. HE SAID THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO END THE UNFAIR TREATMENT OF A VALUED ALLY.

3. TERCUMAN'S REPORTER, NECDET BERKANT, HEADLINED HIS REPORT, "MINORITIES CANNOT INFLUENCE THE SECURITY POLICY OF THE US". TERCUMAN'S STORY QUOTES ZABLOCKI MORE EXTENSIVELY, MAKING THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

--HE IS HOPEFUL SEVERAL CONGRESSMEN WHO FORMERLY SUPPORTED THE EMBARGO WILL COME TO REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF TURKEY.

--THE GREEK AND ARMENIAN LOBBIES ARE ENGAGED IN AN EXTENSIVE EFFORT TO KEEP THE EMBARGO IN PLACE; HOWEVER, ON QUESTION OF US SECURITY, MINORITIES CANNOT EASILY INFLUENCE POLICY.

--THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION APPRECIATES THAT TURKEY IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF WESTERN DEFENSE.

--THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO IS A PARTICULARLY URGENT GOAL OF THE PRESIDENT. CONGRESS WILL HAVE THE FINAL WORD HOWEVER; AND IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT THE OUTCOME. BOTH TURKEY AND GREECE NEED MODERN ARMS FOR THEIR OWN SECURITY AND TO FULFILL THEIR ROLES

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IN THE WESTERN ALLIANCE. SUCH AID CANNOT BE WITHHELD.

--THERE ARE INDICATIONS OF POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS ON CYPRUS. REPORTS THAT TURKEY IS PREPARED TO MAKE LAND CONCESSIONS SHOW THAT TURKEY SINCERELY WANTS A SOLUTION.

4. ZABLOCKI CONCLUDED HIS CONVERSATION WITH BERKANT BY SAYING THAT WHEN EVERYTHING IS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION, THE CONGRESS SHOULD SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE CONGRESS WILL REJECT THE EFFORT TO REPEAL THE EMBARGO, HOWEVER; AND IF THIS SHOULD OCCUR THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF TURKEY SHOULD REACT CALMLY. ZABLOCKI REAFFIRMED HIS PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO TURKISH-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP. HE SAID THAT THE TESTIMONY BEFORE HIS COMMITTEE BY THE SECRETARIES OF STATE AND DEFENSE AND THE CHAIRMAN-DESIGNATE OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF HAD BEEN POSITIVE AND HELPFUL.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LEGISLATORS, NEWSPAPERS, PRESS CONFERENCES, EMBARGOES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780154-0565
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780476/aaaacmot.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bea0aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3026000
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKISH NEWSPAPERS REPORT INTERVIEWS WITH CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI
TAGS: PEPR, SOPN, TU, US, (ZABLOCKI, CLEMENT J)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bea0aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014